

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 10, 2006 LB 1024

the Omaha Public Schools and in residences and in employment. Not one could say, inspect his business or his enterprise and find the diversity he's talking about. But the point is this. This that we're doing is not unconstitutional. You're going to get a memo which will cite you some Supreme Court cases and you can accept them or not. But OPS has put a lot of people on a false trail including those white men who made fools out of themselves Saturday. There are people on this floor talking things they don't know. Senator Bourne, not being overly critical, thought the Legislature forms the districts. But we don't. And I read the entire amendment into the record. And when I get a chance to speak, I'm going to ask Senator Cornett some questions and see just how informed she is on what the amendment does, and that gives her time to read it. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Flood, followed by Senators Mines, Friend, Louden, Howard, and others.

SENATOR FLOOD: Thank you, Mr. President, members. My brief comments today on this represent the view from a senator from northeast Nebraska, admittedly not familiar with the Douglas and Sarpy County area, not familiar with the negotiations or the discussions. And, quite frankly, not familiar with the exact situation in all the schools and the school buildings in Douglas and Sarpy County. I was present last Thursday during the discussion of Senator Chambers' amendment. I chose not to vote and I chose not to vote for a number of reasons. The first, like any of you, I considered the constitutionality of Senator Chambers' amendment. And on its face, I don't see anything in there that calls into question its constitutional soundness because it doesn't draw boundaries, there's no different...there's no map or guide to where the boundaries would be. And as Senator Redfield pointed out in her discussion, it could be, you know, a multiple of different schools integrated together for the purpose of creating a school district. But the discussion on the floor concerned me because we were having a specific discussion about creating Latino, African-American, white districts and that is an act of the Legislature drawing a line or intending to draw a line or at least talking about drawing a line around different racial